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LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States, British and French aircraft continued over the period 1 to 15 September 1996 and that these aircraft carried out reconnaissance and acts of provocation. Details are given in the annex attached.

I request you to intercede with the countries in question in order to halt these acts, which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause material damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legitimate compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the list of violations of Iraqi airspace, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace over the period 1 to 15 September 1996 by United States, British and French aircraft taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

United States, British and French military aircraft and the United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq on 999 occasions during the period 1 to 15 September 1996.

1. Six hundred and seventy-nine sorties were flown using Saudi territory as a base. Of these, 664 sorties were flown by fighter-bombers and 15 by the TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft.

2. Three hundred and twenty sorties were flown using Kuwait as a base.

The fighter-bombers flew at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres and at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour. The TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flew at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour. Times of entry into and exit from Iraqi airspace over this period were from 0705 hours to 2340 hours.